

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is provided to change the format of the application to conform to U.S. practice. The amendments made to the claims are not made for purposes relating to patentability, and are not made in response to prior art or any objections or rejections to the claims. Thus, the Applicant has not intended to narrow, nor has the Applicant narrowed, the scope of any of the claims of the international application by way of this preliminary amendment.

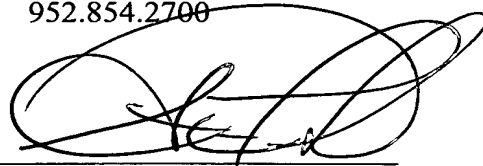
Claims 1-12 and 15-34 are now pending in the international application. The Applicant notes that Claims 17 and 18 are in an acceptable format as indicated in M.P.E.P. § 2173.05(f). It is further respectfully submitted that these claims are proper dependent claims pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 608.01(n). Notwithstanding the foregoing, if it is deemed necessary to effect the filing of the instant application, authorization is given to charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 50-3581 (BKS.026.WUS), although in such case the Applicant reserves the right to contest such a holding and petition for a refund of any overpayment.

The Applicant respectfully requests that this preliminary amendment be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee, and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified national stage patent application.

If the Examiner would like to discuss any issues relating to this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney of record at 952.854.2700 (ext. 11).

Respectfully submitted,

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